

will be continuing on with his work as a small business owner.

A constituent once knitted a sign that hung above Billy's desk that read, "I am just a nobody, trying to help somebody." Billy was fond of telling this to folks who came to my office for assistance. It reassured them that he was there to help, and it let them know their concerns were important to him, and to me. Madam Speaker, it is that generosity and humility that have made him a friend to so many and such a valuable colleague to me. Billy has been a dedicated public servant, a trusted friend and an unstoppable force of nature.

Billy, thank you for all of your help over the years. I wish you all the best in the future.

## SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support much that is contained within this resolution, regarding the need to move forward on direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. A two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical to the security of Israel and to the strategic interests of the United States, in the region and around the world.

However, this is a missed opportunity to raise concerns about the unilateral actions taken by both sides. In particular, the ongoing unilateral construction by Israeli settlers. Strong U.S. leadership is needed to bring these two sides together, and any resolution brought to the floor should clearly support that cause.

This resolution does not meet that test and I must oppose it. While the bill recognizes an issue of concern, it does too little to affirm the urgency of achieving a two-state resolution, fails to oppose unilateral actions by all sides, and is silent on supporting the Obama Administration's efforts to negotiate peace.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration in a more productive manner to achieve lasting peace and a comprehensive two-state solution.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 16, 2010. If I was present, I would have voted on the following:

On Motion to Adjourn—rollcall No. 639—"nay".

S. 841, Pedestrian Enhancement Safety Act of 2010—rollcall No. 640—"yea".

S. 3860, To Require Reports on the Management of Arlington National Cemetery—rollcall No. 641—"yea".

S. 3447, Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010—rollcall No. 642—"yea".

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Amendment—rollcall No. 643—"aye".

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended—rollcall No. 644—"aye".

S. 987, International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010—rollcall No. 645—"yea".

H.R. 4853, Levin of Michigan Amendment—rollcall No. 646—"aye".

H.R. 4583, Motion to Concur in the Senate Amdt to the House Amdt to the Senate Amdt—rollcall No. 647—"aye".

## LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James Cecil Dickens, better known as Little Jimmy Dickens, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. He may be a man of diminutive stature, but Little Jimmy the renowned entertainer and Grand Ole Opry star, stands taller than the rest.

Jimmy Dickens was the first of thirteen children born to a West Virginia farming family and knew from a young age that he wanted to write and sing country music. He first appeared on local radio in the 1940s under the name "Jimmy the Kid" where he began building his reputation as the master of the country novelty song. Some of his early hits include "Take an Old Cold Tater (And Wait)" (1949), "I'm Little But I'm Loud" (1950), "Country Boy" (1949), and "A-Sleeping at the Foot of the Bed" (1950).

In 1948, Roy Acuff heard Jimmy and invited him to perform on the world-famous Grand Ole Opry stage at the Ryman Auditorium. Little Jimmy was an immediate favorite not only for his unforgettable songs, but also for his flamboyant style and country sense of humor. He became a permanent member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1948, and recently celebrated his 60th anniversary as the longest-tenured Opry member of all time.

Little Jimmy was signed to his first major label, Columbia Records, the same year he became an Opry Member. It was at that time that Dickens formed the band the Country Boys, whose line-up included top-flight musicians Jabbo Arrington, Grady Martin, Bob Moore, Buddy Emmons and Thumbs Carlisle. Dickens had a number of hits with the Country Boys, though none bigger than "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose" (1965), which reached number one on the country charts and hit the pop charts, as well. Little Jimmy holds the unique distinction of having hit records in every decade from the 1940s to the 1970s.

But Little Jimmy Dickens' music is only part of his story and only part of what makes him just as popular today as when he first burst onto the country music scene over 60 years ago. He is quick with a joke and he is kind-hearted. He always has time for his fans and often spends hours signing every last autograph after a show. In an ever-changing music industry, Little Jimmy is a constant presence and a reminder that sometimes nice guys finish first.

Jimmy has long been adored by his country music colleagues as well, whether it be fellow

legends like the late Hank Williams (who nicknamed Jimmy, "Tater") or modern-day superstar, Brad Paisley (who Jimmy often performs with). It is this adoration that earned him a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame nearly 30 years ago.

Jimmy is celebrating his 90th year as anyone who knows him might guess he'd celebrate it—by entertaining his fans with good country music and humor. He's even worked his age into his act. "You'll know you're 90-years-old," Jimmy tells his fans, "when you drop something, bend over to pick it up, and think to yourself, 'is there anything else I can do while I'm down here?'"

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Little Jimmy Dickens—an icon, a legend, and a global ambassador to country music.

## TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this tax compromise with strong reservations. This bill contains some highly objectionable provisions like unnecessary tax breaks for the wealthiest two percent of Americans and an estate tax modification that will only benefit the richest 6,600 households across the country. These two items alone will cost \$129 billion, which could alternatively be used for deficit reduction. However, I cannot in good conscience allow all of Rhode Island's businesses and families to suffer onerous tax increases at a time when jobs are scarce and people are pinching pennies just to put food on the table.

Providing tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires is both financially unjust and fiscally irresponsible given our current budgetary challenges, but this compromise protects 98 percent of Americans from significant tax increases set to take effect January 1, 2011, and has the potential to create the private sector jobs than can sustain an economic recovery.

This legislation extends the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all income levels for two years, and prevents middle-income Rhode Islanders from being hit with higher tax rates under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). It also contains several provisions that would assist families and stimulate our economic recovery, which has been frustratingly slow in Rhode Island as state unemployment has lingered at 12.5 percent.

This compromise includes a 13 month extension of Unemployment Insurance for the thousands of Rhode Islanders who are unable